



Press Release

ASPIRE congratulates world junior champion Barshim

Academy celebrates graduate's victory at IAAF World Junior Championships

Saturday 24 July 2010, Doha, Qatar:

ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence congratulated graduate Mutaz Barshim on winning a gold medal for Qatar in the High Jump at the IAAF World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada today.

Barshim cleared a height of 2.30m well ahead of the silver medalist David Smith (USA) who jumped 2.24m.

"This is an historic day for ASPIRE, Qatar and the QAAF," said ASPIRE Director of Sport Wayde Clews.

"ASPIRE is extremely proud to have contributed to the development of Mutaz Barshim and we all rejoice that he has won a gold medal for Qatar."

"This performance demonstrates that ASPIRE has the necessary knowledge, support system and infrastructure to prepare young athletes to be competitive at the highest level in international sport."

"The close and effective relationship enjoyed between QAAF and Aspire also ensures that athletes and their coaches have available to them the support critical to consistently achieving success."

Barshim was elated with the win and will now turn his focus to the Asian Games to be held in China during November.

"I think when I missed at 2.26m it was the best for me, because then I started to think about what I was doing and not just running. I got into the mood and made 2.30m on my first jump," said Barshim.

"I'm just happy to have won the World Juniors."

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ASPIRE Media Information

For all media enquiries and high resolution images contact:

Stuart Hodge E: stuart.hodge@aspire.qa M: (+974) 512 9738

Notes to Editors:

P.O. Box 22287, Doha, Qatar - Tel: (+974) 413 6000 - Fax: (+974) 413 6060

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Created in 2004, the ASPIRE Academy for Sports Excellence in Doha has the dual aims of identifying and transforming promising student athletes into world-renowned champions across a wide range of sports and to act as a beacon to draw sporting culture into the centre of life in Qatar and the surrounding region.

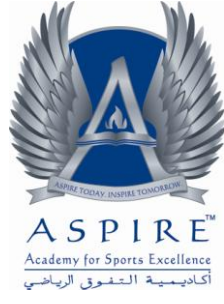
The Academy is distinguished by a philosophy which aims to develop the student as a whole, providing them with full academic, social and sporting development.

Unrivalled facilities, housed in and around the world's largest purpose built indoor sports dome, ensure the Academy's reputation as one of the foremost sporting and educational institutions in the entire international community, enticing an ever-increasing number of visitors and users, from sporting legends to global political leaders.

Every aspect of the development of elite athletes is catered for by one indoor and seven outdoor football pitches, athletics tracks, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, diving pool, combat arenas, gymnastics arena, specially fitness weight rooms, lecture halls, dormitories to accommodate what will eventually become 1,000 students, a medical centre and many more facilities.

Launched in 2007, the ASPIRE Football Dreams project has annually tests over 600.000 young footballers from all over the world including Asia, South America and Africa as part of the largest ever talent search within the sport.

The ASPIRE ACTIVE initiative is a government subsidized community program. Our focus, guided by the *2030 Qatar National Vision*, falls on preventative teen and adult educational fitness and health related exercise programming. The broad variety of scientifically designed classes and courses on offer cater for beginner to advanced users. Our mother, baby and children classes provide holistic fundamental movement skill development crucial to later sport specific skill mastery. ASPIRE ACTIVE fosters culturally sensitive lifelong recreational fitness activity and healthy lifestyle choices for the entire family to effectively address contemporary sedentary lifestyle consequences.



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